

Fire Season 2004

DNR succeeded in meeting its main objectives of the 2004 fire season: providing for the safety of its firefighters and the public, and detecting and controlling most wildfires when small. This success id thanks to all the interagency partners, contractors, fire support personnel and, especially, the DNR dispatchers, fireline overhead, fire fighters, and support personnel.

Early in the year, long-range weather models predicted above normal temperatures and below normal rainfall for the period including June through



August. The fire season was setting up to be the fifth consecutive year of above normal fire danger, with one of the driest springs ever recorded at many weather stations statewide. Some moisture was received in May, but that was followed by three months of very warm and dry weather. Dramatic changes took place in August; the last three weeks of August set record precipitation events statewide. This weather pattern essentially brought an early end to the fire season in Western Washington. A few fires continued to be reported mainly on the eastside, but none grew very large.

Every year, DNR seeks to keep 95 percent of the wildfires that affect lands protected by the agency to less than 10 acres. By doing this, fires are less dangerous, consume fewer natural resources, and pose less threat to residences and other human developments. DNR achieved this objective for 2004.

Compared to the last five years, 2004 was an average one for DNR in terms of the number of wildfires on, or threatening, lands protected by the agency. DNR responded to 1,654 reports of fire, of which there were 863 classified fires that burned 6,975 acres of land. Following a typical pattern, both the numbers of fires and acreage burned were markedly higher in the areas east of the crest of the Cascade Mountains as compared to areas west of the Cascades – there were 552 fires that burned 6,503 acres on the east side, versus 311 fires that burned 472 acres on the west side.

The number of wildfires experienced by DNR in 2004 comes close to the 5-year average, while the area burned was about 41 percent lower than the 5-year average. DNR controlled 95 percent of the fires before they grew greater than 10 acres in size. However, as in every year, a small number of fires did grow large. There were five relatively large, complex incidents that burned primarily on DNR jurisdiction during 2004. These were called Mud Lake (4,000 acres), Elk Heights (358 acres), Lauderdale (250 acres), Eagle Rock (308 acres), and Mill Canyon (150

acres). The first three listed occurred in the Southeast Region, and the latter two were in the Northeast Region. In addition, DNR had joint jurisdiction in a number of the major fires in the state.

DNR also provided firefighting assistance to federal, state and local fire agencies under cooperative agreements. Outside of Washington State, DNR personnel responded to fire calls in Oregon, Colorado, New Mexico, Alaska, and the Canadian province of British Columbia.

Points of Interest:

- Among DNR's six upland operational regions, Northeast Region had the highest number of fires (390), followed by Pacific Cascade Region (166), and Southeast Region (162).
- Southeast Region led the state in the largest acreage burned, mainly due to the Mud Lake Project Fire that burned 4,000 acres. Lightning was responsible for starting the highest number of fires. However, arson was a significant problem, resulting in 11 fires, two of which became large, complex fires that were both difficult and expensive to control.
- Northeast Region had the second highest acreage burned. In this region, lightning was responsible for both the highest number of starts and greatest acreage burned.
- South Puget Sound Region had the distinction of having the first fire of the season (the Nettleton Two-Mile Fire in January), as well as the last fire of the season (the Doctor Jeckyll Fire in November). Considering different ways that fires start, the highest number of fires in this region was caused by public recreation. Debris burning was responsible for the greatest area burned in this region.

Preliminary Totals for Classified Fires* From 1/1/2004 to 12/31/2004

NORTHEAST REGION

General Cause		Number of Fires	Total Acres
Arson		2	0.20
Children		10	12.10
Debris Burning		71	231.30
Lightning		210	622.30
Logging		2	1.30
Miscellaneous		67	331.30
Railroad		7	11.90
Recreation		19	207.00
Smoker		2	0.20
	TOTAL:	390	1,417.60
NORTHWEST REGION			
Arson		5	31.20
Children		4	0.40
Debris Burning		8	112.20
Lightning		2	0.30
Miscellaneous		19	11.60
Recreation		9	3.80
Smoker		1	0.50
	TOTAL:	48	160.00
OLYMPIC REGION			
Arson		4	4.80
Children		2	6.50
Debris Burning		9	4.70
Logging Miscellaneous		3 10	3.10 18.60
Recreation		2	1.00
Smoker		1	0.10
Gillokei	TOTAL:	31	38.80
PACIFIC CASCADE REGION			
Arson		13	9.20
Children		8	19.70
Debris Burning		40	49.60
Lightning		6	15.90
Logging		3	17.30
Miscellaneous		56	70.80
Railroad		2	0.90
Recreation		33	18.20
Smoker		5	2.20
	TOTAL:	166	203.80

SOUTH PUGET SOUND REGION

General Cause	Number of Fires	1	otal Acres
Arson	9		0.80
Children	5		3.10
Debris Burning	14		51.60
Lightning	5		0.10
Logging	2		4.70
Miscellaneous	15		6.60
Recreation	16		3.60
TO	OTAL: 66		70.50
SOUTHEAST REGION			
Arson	11		718.90
Children	4		0.40
Debris Burning	24		28.40
Lightning	45		91.90
Logging	1		2.00
Miscellaneous	41		234.70
Railroad	2		0.30
Recreation	31		4,006.10
Smoker	3		2.10
TO	OTAL: 162		5,084.80
TOTAL CAUSES FOR ALL FIRES			
Arson	44		765.10
Children	33		42.20
Debris Burning	166		477.80
Lightning	268		730.50
Logging	11		28.40
Miscellaneous	208		673.60
Railroad	11		13.10
Recreation	110		4,239.70
Smoker	12		5.10
TOTA	L WESTSIDE:	311	473.10
TOTA	L EASTSIDE:	552	6,502.40
	AAND TOTAL:	863	6,975.50

^{*} A Classified fire is an uncontrolled fire requiring suppression action by the department or it's cooperators to prevent the fire from spreading to or burning on any lands for which the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has the protection responsibility.

Preliminary Totals for Classified Fires

From 1/1/04 to 12/31/2004

Fires by Size Class

Region	A	В	<u>C</u>	D	E	F	G	<u>Total</u>
NORTHEAST	276	97	14	2	1	0	0	390
NORTHWEST	31	15	1	1	0	0	0	48
OLYMPIC	14	16	1	0	0	0	0	31
PACIFIC CASCADE	110	49	7	0	0	0	0	166
SOUTH PUGET	47	17	2	0	0	0	0	66
SOUTHEAST	120	28	11	1	1	1	0	162
Grand Total:	598	222	36	4	2	1	0	863

Class Types

A 0 To 0.3 Acres

B 0.4 To 9.9 Acres

C 10 To 99.9 Acres

D 100 To 299.9 Acres

E 300 To 999.9 Acres

F 1000 To 4999 Acres

G 5000 or more Acres

Total Fire Count 863.00

Total Acres 6,975.50

State of Washington Department of Natural Resources

Preliminary Totals for Classified Fires From 1/1/2004 to 12/31/2004

NORTHEAST REGION

General Cause	N	umber of Fires	Total Acres
Arson Pyromaniac		2	0.20
Fytomaniac	TOTAL:	2	0.20
	IOIAL.	-	0.20
Children			
Children 10-18		5	11.40
Children 3-9 None		3 2	0.60 0.10
None	TOTAL:	10	12.10
	TOTAL:	10	12.10
Debris Burning			
Failure to patrol		10	7.10
Failure to thoroughly extinguish		3	0.40
Fire left unattended		11	124.50
Insufficient manpower None		12 35	73.60 25.70
None	TOTAL:	71	231.30
	IOTAL.	71	231.30
Lightning			
None		210	622.30
	TOTAL:	210	622.30
Logging			
Logging Sparks from equipment		2	1.30
opano nom oquipmon	TOTAL:	2	1,30
	IOIAL.	-	1.50
Miscellaneous			
Burning material from auto		3	0.20
(other than smoking)		47	400.00
Electric fence/Power Line Fireworks other than children		17 4	162.90 0.50
None		5	1.60
Other		15	143.50
Sparks from burning building		3	0.50
Sparks from equipment		7	9.30
Sparks from vehicle		3	9.00
Spontaneous Combustion		1	0.00
Structure Fire Under Investigation		2 2	1.20 0.00
Unknown		5	2.60
CHAIGWII	TOTAL:	67	331.30
	IOIAL.	O/	331.30
Railroad			
Carbon from engine/speeder exh	naust	2	0.30
Hot brake shoes		3	2.00
None Track maintenance		1 1	9.50 0.10
Track maintenance	TOTAL:	7	11.90
Recreation	IOTAL.	,	11.50
Camper		10	155.20
Day Use		2	4.30
Other		7	47.50
	TOTAL:	19	207.00
			2000
Smoker			
Adult Smoking		1	0.10
Other	TOTAL:	1 2	0.10
	IUIAL:	4	0.20
	mor		
	TOTAL	390	1,417.60

NORTHWEST REGION

General Cause Arson	1	Number of Fires	Total Acres
None		1	0.20
Pyromaniac		4	31.00
·	TOTAL:	5	31.20
Children			
Children 10-18		2	0.20
Children 3-9 None		1 1	0.10 0.10
None	TOTAL:	1 4	0.10
Debris Burning			
Failure to thoroughly extinguish		1	0.10
None		7	112.10
	TOTAL:	8	112.20
Lightning			
None		2	0.30
	TOTAL:	2	0.30
Miscellaneous		_	
Electric fence/Power Line		2 9	0.20
Fireworks other than children None		9 2	2.60 7.30
Other		2	0.20
Sparks from equipment		1	0.90
Sparks from vehicle		1	0.20
Unknown		2	0.20
	TOTAL:	19	11.60
Recreation		_	
Camper		8	3.30
Other		1	0.50
	TOTAL:	9	3.80
Smoker			
Adult Smoking		1	0.50
	TOTAL:	1	0.50
	TOTA	L: 48	160.00

OLYMPIC REGION

General Cause	Nun	nber of Fires	Total Acres
Arson Other		2	4.50
Pyromaniac		2	0.30
	TOTAL:	4	4.80
Children			
Children 10-18		1	0.50
Children 3-9		1	6.00
	TOTAL:	2	6.50
Debris Burning			
Fire left unattended		3	2.70
Insufficient manpower		4	1.70
None		2	0.30
	TOTAL:	9	4.70
Logging			
Equipment burning Other		1 2	0.50 2.60
Other	TOTAL:	3	2.60 3.10
Mala and Harris and		•	
Miscellaneous Electric fence/Power Line		1	0.30
Fireworks other than children		2	0.70
Other		5	1.10
Sparks from burning building		1	0.50
Unknown		1	16.00
	TOTAL:	10	18.60
Recreation			
Day Use		1	0.50
Hunter		1	0.50
	TOTAL:	2	1.00
Smoker			0.40
Other		1	0.10
	TOTAL:	1	0.10
	TOTAL:	31	38.80

PACIFIC CASCADE REGION

General Cause Arson	1	Number of Fires	Total Acres
None		2	0.70
Other		10	8.40
Pyromaniac		1	0.10
·	TOTAL:	13	9.20
	_	-	
Children			
Children 10-18		6	19.20
Children 3-9		2	0.50
	TOTAL:	8	19.70
Debris Burning			
Failure to patrol		1	0.00
Failure to thoroughly extinguish		10	5.70
Fire left unattended		1	1.00
None		28	42.90
	TOTAL:	40	49.60
Lightning			
None		6	15.90
	TOTAL:	6	15.90
Logging			
Equipment burning		1	0.00
Other		2	17.30
	TOTAL:	3	17.30
Miscellaneous			
Burning material from auto		4	8.10
(other than smoking)			
Electric fence/Power Line		2	0.50
Fireworks other than children None		13 7	6.40 36.60
Other		22	11.70
Sparks from equipment		3	1.20
Sparks from vehicle		5	6.30
·	TOTAL:	56	70.80
Railroad			
Carbon from engine/speeder exhaust		1	0.80
Other		1	0.10
Other	TOTAL:	2	0.90
	IOTAL:	2	0.90
Recreation			
Camper		14	2.30
Day Use		3	11.10
Hunter		2	0.80
None Other		2 12	1.30 2.70
Ottlei	TOTAL.		
	TOTAL:	33	18.20
Smoker			
Cigarette or cigar thrown from ve	hicle	4	1.60
None		1	0.60
	TOTAL:	5	2.20
	TOTA	L: 166	203.80
	IJIA		203.00

SOUTH PUGET SOUND REGION

General Cause	Nun	nber of Fires	Total Acres
Arson Other		4	0.30
Pyromaniac		5	0.50
	TOTAL:	9	0.80
Children			
Children 10-18		5	3.10
	TOTAL:	5	3.10
Debris_Burning			
Failure to thoroughly extinguish		4	46.40
Fire left unattended None		5 5	2.00 3.20
None	TOTAL:	14	51.60
	IOTAL:	14	31.00
Lightning			
None		5	0.10
	TOTAL:	5	0.10
Logging			
Other		2	4.70
	TOTAL:	2	4.70
Miscellaneous			
Electric fence/Power Line		2	0.40
Fireworks other than children		5	0.90
Other Vehicle Fire		7 1	5.20 0.10
vernicie i ne	TOTAL:	15	6.6 0
	IOTAL.	13	0.00
Recreation			
Camper		4	0.70
Day Use		4	0.70
Hunter		2	0.00
None		1	0.00
Other	T0T41	5	2.20
	TOTAL:	16	3.60
	TOTAL:	66	70.50

SOUTHEAST REGION

General Cause Arson	Ì	Number of Fires	Total Acres
None		1	0.50
Other		1	0.50
Pyromaniac		3	1.20
Under Investigation		6	716.70
-	TOTAL:	11	718.90
Children			
Children 10-18		4	0.40
	TOTAL:	4	0.40
Debris Burning			
Failure to thoroughly extinguish		1	0.20
Fire left unattended		2	1.20
Insufficient manpower None		2 19	1.70 25.30
NOTIC	TOTAL.	-	
	TOTAL:	24	28.40
Lightning None		45	91.90
None	TOTAL:	45	91.90
			01.00
Logging None		1	2.00
	TOTAL:	1	2.00
Miscellaneous Burning material from auto (other than smoking)		9	0.80
Electric fence/Power Line		3	0.30
Fireworks other than children		2	0.20
None		3	0.50
Other		7	48.70
Sparks from burning building		6	86.60
Sparks from equipment		2	5.10
Sparks from vehicle		5	88.30
Under Investigation		3	3.20
Unknown		1	1.00
	TOTAL:	41	234.70
Railroad None		1	0.10
Other		1	0.10
Guid.	TOTAL:	2	0.30
Recreation			
Camper		20	4.90
Hunter		8	0.90
None		1	4,000.00
Other		2	0.30
Smoker	TOTAL:	31	4,006.10
Adult Smoking		1	1.00
Cigarette or cigar thrown from ve	ehicle	1	0.10
Under Investigation		1	1.00
Ç	TOTAL:	3	2.10
	TOTA	L: 162	5,084.80
GRANI	O TOTA	L: 863	6975.50

State of Washington Department of Natural Resources

Total Number of Responses by Classification From 1/1/2004 to 12/31/2004

NORTHEAST REGION

	Number of Fires	Total Acres
Classified	390	1,417.60
False Alarm*	307	0.00
Other Agency**	67	7,155.10
Unclassified***	49	242.10
Total	813	8,814.80

NORTHWEST REGION

	Number of Fires	Total Acres
Classified	48	160.00
False Alarm	14	0.00
Other Agency	13	592.10
Unclassified	9	0.90
Total	84	753.00

OLYMPIC REGION

	Number of Fires	Total Acres
Classified	31	38.80
False Alarm	18	0.00
Unclassified	8	1.00
Total	57	39.80

PACIFIC CASCADE REGION

	Number of Fires	Total Acres
Classified	166	203.80
False Alarm	41	0.00
Unclassified	17	0.20
Total	224	204.00

SOUTH PUGET SOUND REGION

	Number of Fires	Total Acres
Classified	66	70.50
False Alarm	15	0.00
Other Agency	22	75.60
Unclassified	5	0.00
Total	108	146.10

SOUTHEAST REGION

	Number of Fires	Total Acres
Classified	162	5,084.80
False Alarm	121	0.00
Other Agency	75	41,413.40
Unclassified	10	0.00
Total	368	46,498.20

GRAND TOTALS FOR ALL FIRES

	Number of Fires	Total Acres
Classified	863	6,975.50
False Alarm	516	0.00
Other Agency	177	49,236.20
Unclassified	98	244.20
Grand Total:	1654	56,455.90

^{*} A False Alarm is a reported fire on which initial attack dispatch action was initiated but no fire could be found, or a fire burning that is controlled.

^{**} Other Agency is a fire burning on another agencies jurisdiction and does not pose a imminent threat to Department of Natural Resources protected lands and DNR supplies suppression resources through agreements or closest forces concept.

^{***} Unclassified fires are fires that have gone out naturally or under prevailing weather or fuel conditions do not threaten Department of Natural Resources protected lands.

TOTALS	LIGHTNING	NING	말	MRY	RECREATION	NOITY	SMOKERS	SRS	DEBRIS BURNS	BURNS	LOGGING	NG	CHILDREN	SEN	RAILROAD	OAD	MISC.	ن	TOTALS	S
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres		Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	_	Acres
2004	268	731	44	765	110	4,240	12	2	166	478		28	33	42	11	13	208	674	863	6,976
2003	125	216	49	520	166	287	43	1,145	178	2,049		17	54	32	18	33	286	7,933	932	12,232
2002	137	469	34	105	133	204	30	19	198	3,059	27	19	43	35	16	22	288	6,151	906	10,084
2001	138	7,196	24	27	125	191	27	တ	170	887		-	56	13	20	34	276	3,187	811	11,544
2000	81	13,946	40	1,069	124	947	28	20	191	611	13	47	28	98	o	44	267	1,248	781	18,027
5 Year Average	150	4,511	38	497	132	1,174	28	240	181	1,417	14	22	37	43	15	29	265	3,839	829	11,772
							+							\dagger						
1999	120	529	35	296	189	431	40	17	274	1.175		159	47	124	13	30	273	3.364	1.003	6.796
1998	194	19.189	48	951	150	20	41	35	214	546	1	20	45	87	14	125	274	2.459	991	23,511
1997	119	168	17	20	88	96	21	12	189	3,118		53	38	18	11	37	175	1,152	657	4,650
1996	93	1,202	35	999	141	218	38	17	191	3,623	12	44	74	71	16	910	211	4,141	811	10,885
1995	115	59	48	25	124	1,424	49	84	282	1,750	15	286	61	18	20	24	172	334	988	4,035
1994	263		88	982	173	119	64	9,913	291	889	11	196	91	1,436	9	1,306	230	1,525	1,212	79,408
1993	89		31	54	132	118	38	15	203	1,353	11	178	28	8	5	6	104	222	641	2,203
1992	143		63	26	150	217	09	2,542	312	681	32	291	88	69	14	256	221	5,307	1,084	10,003
1991	186	913	99	91	161	327	72	223	299	1,624	6	126	99	132	10	258	313	36,675	1,174	40,369
1990	205	2	39	55	133	180	63	675	362	888	21	16	70	82	16	89	233	4,173	1,142	8,762
1989	223		53	31	157	168	69	74	400	1,569	17	142	109	239	23	29	283	6,201	1,334	8,708
1988	32		7.1	3,055	174	170	7.1	42	331	940	22	1,980	82	83	15	45	274	19,745	1,072	26,999
1987	173	957	66	88	233	483	121	1,941	436	1,306	22	101	126	122	39	9/	333	4,442	1,582	9,515
1986	145		74	268	158	262	58	24	317	1,193	20	168	102	54	17	84	187	170	1,078	2,644
1985	155		106	264	136	1,192	72	107	317	11,959	22	863	183	1,175	53	338	330	7,518	1,350	41,946
1984	166	231	41	197	109	1,130	20	32	222	1,524	18	154	84	99	20	9	131	200	841	3,842
1983	66		22	88	76	128	32	13	166	1,194	12	9	31	11	10	3	81	177	496	1,783
1982	175		38	116	140	156	73	119	289	2,789	17	17	100	108	25	12	143	511	1,000	4,195
1981	200	- 1	49	34	112	115	20	92	179	749	17	318	25	56	52	39	93	779	777	4,189
1980	110	- 1	27	29	91	123	44	88	147	775	19	124	52	10	13	34	74	246	22.7	1,976
1979	211		111	172	218	220	137	474	312	3,310	41	531	109	490	41	38	199	9,568	1,379	15,395
1978	241		40	21	131	97	29	358	190	1,976	15	203	28	18	27	6	62	1,547	821	4,293
1977	178		9/	230	172	3,317	137	141	266	1,211	15	15	112	171	30	19	167	2,215	1,153	7,549
1976	56		52	2,190	160	2,377	63	111	132	1,603	13	218	9/	30	18	5	73	2,544	644	9,150
1975	176		88	250	159	120	114	315	191	559	23	155	97	44	92	29	66	381	982	2,083
1974	120	29	20	47	230	229	223	565	266	2,379	34	941	144	744	7.1	22	151	1,014	1,309	6,035
1973	143		88	1,755	275	995	223	1,286	298	916	30	137	143	277	95	655	169	4,400	1,459	10,126
1972	192		25	11	157	8	500	387	290	585	28	915	120	400	8	22	132	243	1,275	2,537
13/1	90		25	51	133	94	141	306	168	407	77	4	8	1/3	138	3/	8	738	000	1,332
1970	203	40	108	521	255	418	230	403	402	9,175	34	1,104	206	116	247	218	227	2,507	1,972	61,367
1969	63		22	184	114	22	207	232	200	155	43	424	19	199	234	435	266	615	1,203	2,308
1968	88		38	30	67	24	119	1,868	121	599	36	777	6	16	136	99	186	427	780	3,898
1967	93		107	186	180	99	336	547	248	147	27	28	52	4,595	361	749	330	337	1,767	6,716
1966	209		59	12	120	40	198	95	197	119	17	82	17	6	312	301	231	950	1,330	1,665
1965	139		38	329	139	93	190	189	227	243	41	309	40	77	238	173	235	140	1,287	1,611
1964	54		12	2	97	69	112	244	88	4,502	25	468	15	2	108	52	98	231	610	5,600
1963	304		24	12	92	113	134	734	106	126	19	105	21	73	122	79	149	131	971	1,555
1962	115		11	16	80	59	154	169	124	501	17	135	12	35	58	74	154	129	725	1,704
1961	408		53	375	115	9	257	6,212	218	471	16	366	23	31	140	116	310	1,325	1,540	9,639
1960	999	852	53	3,101	105	1,623	226	1,131	140	358	18	29	28	69	104	290	212	1,604	918	9,095
1959	20		12	232	71	15	160	926	112	348	15	88	16	333	88	815	183	2,427	705	5,296
1958	34		73	311	98	168	301	3,043	211	1,028	52	330	52	1,746	118	166	393	8,569	1,592	16,231